

10/698,336  
112-0128US**REMARKS**

The Office Action objected to Claim 15 due to a typographical error therein. Claim 15 has been amended to correct this error.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 5 – 9, 16, 17 and 21 under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,041 to Lee.

The claims of the subject application require “a plurality of interior walls defining chambers open on their bottom surface and front surface said interior walls connected on their top portion to the segmented top and connected on their rear portion to the back wall and having their bottom portions generally coplanar with the bottom of the back wall.”

None of the references cited in the Office Action describes a light reflector having a plurality of interior walls defining chambers open on their bottom surface and front surface.

The Office Actions contends that Lee describes a light reflector having a segmented top wherein each segment is generally planar and connected to the adjacent segment and a back wall having a top portion connected to the segmented top.

Lee does not describe a structure having a “segmented top wherein each segment is generally planar and connected to the adjacent segment,” or “a back wall having a top portion connected to the segmented top” as required by claims 1, 2, 5 – 9. Nor does Lee describe a structure having “a top, the cross section of which generally corresponds to a segment of a parabola; [and] a back wall having an upper edge connected to the top” as required by claims 16, 17 and 21.

As can be clearly seen in Figures 3A, 4A and 4B of Lee, the top of housing 300 is not segmented into planar sections. Rather, it is curved with the curved portion being tangential to straight portions at the rear and front of the housing. There is no disclosure

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in Lee of the curved portion being parabolic and the illustrated embodiments do not appear to have a parabolic section.

The Office Action contends that elements 234 and 304 of Lee comprise a segmented top. However, element 234 is the entire jack and element 304 is the front surface of housing 300. [col. 2; lines 49-58] Lee does not describe a light reflector having a segmented top wherein each segment is generally planar.

All of the pending claims require "a plurality of interior walls defining chambers open on their bottom surface and front surface said interior walls connected on their top portion to the segmented top and connected on their rear portion to the back wall and having their bottom portions generally coplanar with the bottom of the back wall." No such feature is described in Lee. The jack described in Lee has a bottom wall which comprises one side of the jack – i.e., the walls of the jack do not define "chambers open on their bottom surface" (see Figures 3A and 3B wherein element 341 is an opening in the wall which comprises the bottom of the jack).

The Office Action rejected claims 3, 4, 10 – 15 and 18 – 20 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,008,658 to Russay et al. The Office Action contends that Russay teaches a segmented top, back wall and interior walls which are reflective to visible light or diffusely reflective to visible light.

However, there is no disclosure in Russay of a segmented top wherein each segment is generally planar and connected to the adjacent segment as required by claims 3, 4, 10 – 15; nor is there a disclosure of a top, the cross section of which generally corresponds to a segment of a parabola as required by claims 18 – 20. Rather, Russay describes upper housing section 40 as including a planar aft portion 48 which is continuous with and extends rearward from the upper curvilinear panel 46. [col. 3; lines 29-32] Russay is specifically directed to a housing having curved walls. "Disposed within the housing between its front and lower ports are facing convex and concave inner walls which form a light channel between the LEDs and the LCDs." [abstract] "For example, while the

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invention has been described in terms of positioning the LEDs below the LCD display as viewed from the front, the LEDs may also be positioned either above or to the side of the LCD display by providing the housing with an appropriately curved pair of inner facing reflective surfaces.” [col. 5; lines 46-52 *emphasis supplied*]

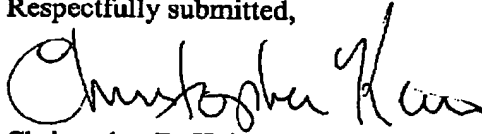
Lee describes a jack for mating with a plug. The configuration of the jack is dictated by the configuration of the plug. For example, the illustrated embodiments in Lee are RJ45 jacks. This is a common jack used for network connections and its size and shape are specified in an industry standard. Thus, one is not free to modify the configuration of the plug by, for example, providing a segmented top portion comprised of generally planar segments or by providing a curvilinear panel as described in Russay or a parabolic top as required by claims 16 – 21.

Applicant’s invention is specifically directed to preventing the light from adjacent LEDs from bleeding over into the adjoining indicators on an indicator panel. In contrast, Russay describes a light housing designed to combine the light from a plurality of LEDs in order to backlight an LCD display without “hot spots.” “A still further object of the present invention is to provide an LCD/LED display arrangement wherein virtually all of the light produced by a plurality of LEDs is projected onto the rear surface of an LCD display in providing efficient backlighting therefor.” [col. 2; lines 11-15] Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not be led to combine the teachings of Russay with those of Lee to reach Applicant’s invention.

For the above-stated reasons, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance over the references cited in the Office Action. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

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